

THE CONDOR

A Magazine of Western
Ornithology



Volume VII

September-October, 1905

Number 5



W.K.C.P.

COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

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Beginning with 1905 the BULLETIN enters upon its sixth volume and will be of more interest than ever to the bird student. The many contributions will be enriched by original photographs of birds, their nests and eggs. The BULLETIN is devoted to the ornithology of the Great Lake Region and the present volume will contain many notes on the birds of the St. Clair Flats and other points of interest in this territory. If you are interested in birds you should read the BULLETIN.

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FREDERICK C. HÜBEL
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KAEDING PETREL ON NEST, UNEARTHED IN BURROW
Photographed by Herman T. Bohlman

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Among the Sea Birds off the Oregon Coast, Part I

BY WILLIAM LOVELL FINLEY

PHOTOGRAPHS BY HERMAN T. BOHLMAN

THE coast line of Oregon is rugged and very picturesque. It is interspersed with short sand beaches and jutting rocks, which have been left standing at intervals by the erosion of the sea. Sixty miles south of the mouth of the Columbia is the largest group, charted as Three Arch Rocks, so named because each has a great arch worn completely through its base. These great stacks of basalt are a mile off shore; the outer rock is 297 feet high and the inner rises 304 feet above the sea surface. In shore from Three Arch Rocks is a smaller broken group, some of which may be reached by wading out at extreme low tide.

Our plan was to make a careful study of the sea birds that lived on Three Arch Rocks, and picture them with our cameras. This could not be done in a day, nor in several hurried trips, so we intended to hazard a camp on the ledges of one of the rocks, where, with the least possible disturbance to the birds, we could watch them carefully for several days in succession and collect a good series of photographs.

How could we carry out these plans? The only way the rocks could be reached was by a small boat. We found no one along the beach who cared to take the risk of helping us. But we did find a small fourteen-foot, double-ended dory at Netart's, the only available craft along the coast. In point of necessity, if we camped on the rocks, we had to have a supply of fresh water, tenting and clothing for stormy weather, some fuel for cooking, and provisions enough for emergency. Besides this, we had a heavy camera equipment of two 5x7 long-focus cameras and about 150 plates.

We were in a dilemma. This boat was too light to carry such a load, to say nothing of passing the barrier of big breakers that never ceased to pound in along

the beach in rapid succession. Granting we could reach the smooth water beyond the high-rolling surf, the boat was then too heavy to hoist to a ledge high enough above the tide line to protect it from the lashing waves. The first difficulty we met, finally, by making two trips in succession with our equipment wrapped in water-tight bags. The second difficulty we overcame by taking a block and tackle and raising the boat to a ledge twelve feet above the water.



THREE ARCH ROCKS FROM SHORE

Our enterprise involved the landing upon a rocky shelf at the foot of a precipitous cliff in mid-ocean. It was necessary to wait until conditions were favorable to have a reasonable possibility of success. We expected to get on the rocks, when we caught a calm spell. We hoped to get off before our provisions were all gone.

We pitched our 4x7 tent on the beach among the drift, opposite the big rocks. Although it was the latter part of June, the sea winds were cold and the rain continuous. Occasionally, the sun would break from the clouds for a day and raise our hopes by diminishing the size of the rollers, but this was sure to be followed by a sou'wester that brought a steady pour of drizzling rain and lashed the white-caps as high as ever. We were wet half the time but didn't seem to catch cold. We soon got into a sort of amphibian state, where a condition of water-soak seemed part of our normal environment. When it rained all day, we sometimes went to bed and slept our clothes dry. It rains a good nine months out of the year and one of the natives said "it was a little apt to be showery the other three".

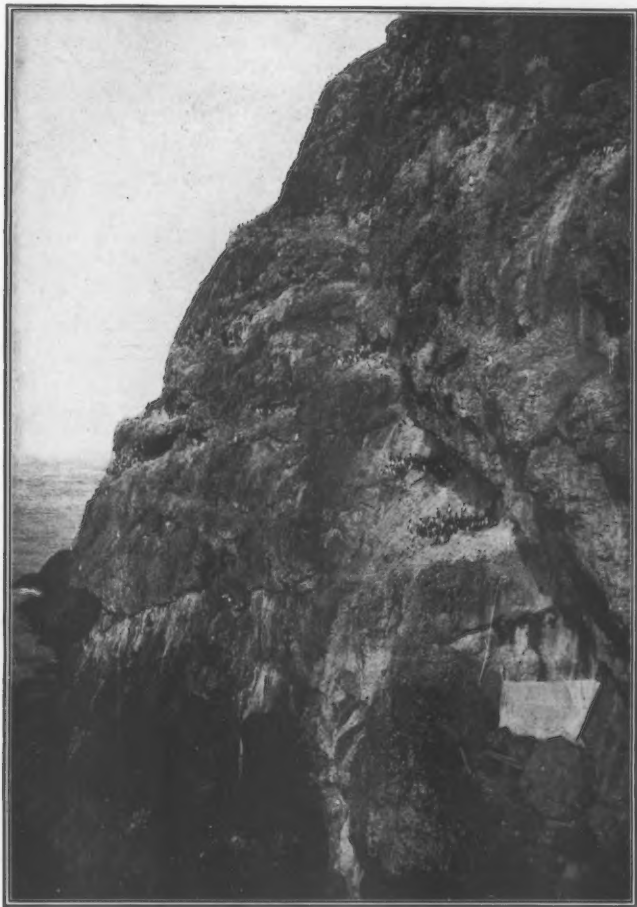


IN CAMP ON ARCH ROCK
Courtesy of The Pacific Monthly

For sixteen days we lay in camp, while the waves throbbed incessantly night and day like the pulse of a living world. Often, we lay awake at night feeling the rain beat on the canvas and listening to the wind, trying to imagine the growl

of the surf was growing fainter. In the gray light of every morning, we crawled out to see if we could detect a sufficient gap in the on-coming line of combers.

Then one morning, when we were impatient of waiting, we made a trial of driving our boat through the lowest place in the surf-barrier. We waded in with our little dory until she floated. Watching our chance, when the waves were



SIDE OF ROCK SHOWING CAMP ON LEDGE, AND WAY TO SUMMIT

Courtesy of The Pacific Monthly

smallest, we jumped to our oars. The nose of the boat plowed through the foam of the first and second breaker, but they tossed her like a toothpick. She shot at the third like a hunter at a fence, but failed to reach the top before it combed. Crash! came half a ton of green, foaming water down my back. We swerved a little to the right, and another monster grew up like magic. Biff! came ten tons

of the next wave piling over us, and the third tossed us shoreward like an empty cracker-box. We dried out the rest of the day, and went at it again the following morning with about the same success. The fourth day, the surf dropped lower and we reached the smooth water beyond.

As the most "climbable" and "campable" looking rock, we selected the one farthest out at sea. This rock was 600 feet in length and rose in abrupt cliffs from the sea, but the south side was well ledged. It was not an easy task to land on the rock itself. The steady ground-swell of four or five feet would not let the boat touch the rock. We found a place on the south side where the rock shelved down to the tide-level. As the wave receded, we backed the boat in and one of us landed in a flying leap from the stern, while the other pulled away to keep from being dashed against the jagged rock by the next breaker. Provisions had



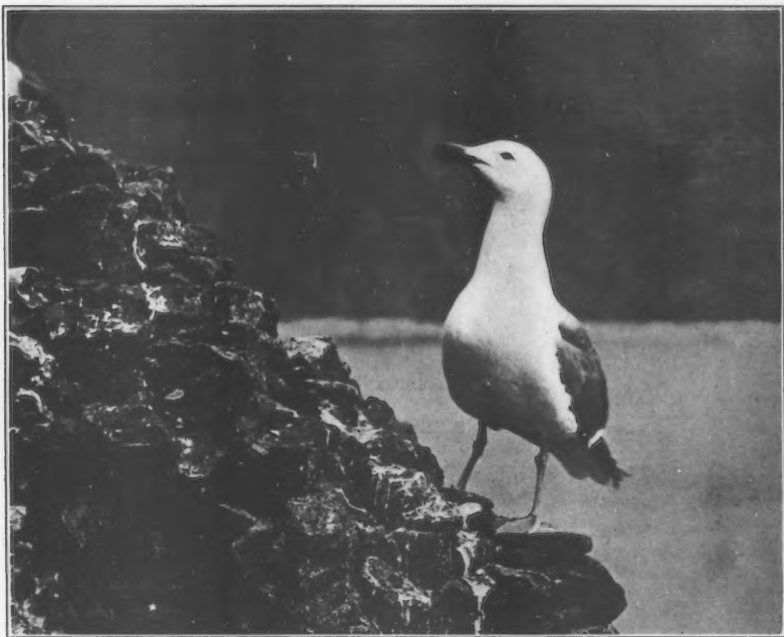
TUFTED PUFFIN AT ENTRANCE TO BURROW

to be pitched out and some of our bulkier belongings barely escaped a watery grave. It was a much more difficult task "ledging" our boat, as it weighed over five hundred pounds. We had to swing her well in on the crest of a big wave and spring into the water and hold her as the wave receded, then work her up with block and tackle to a twelve-foot table away from the lash of the waves.

When we began looking for the best camping spot on the rough, jagged side of that cliff, it was a good deal like hunting for a lodging on a winding stair-case. There wasn't much choice. There was only one landing that was wide enough to stretch out, and that looked as couch-like and comfortable as the top of a broken picket fence. It was a good deal more dangerous in case one took to perambulating in his sleep, as the edge broke abruptly off to a reef forty feet below.

It took us, in all, about a day's work with a small rock-drill and axe to level off a space wide enough for a bed. For all our attempts at breaking the boulders fine enough to make them as soft as possible, the jagged points annoyed us somewhat during the first night, and occasionally we had to reach under and shift the larger ones. This bed worked a trifle on our nerves, and the second day, we took the pains to pull a couple of sacks of the watery weed that grew on the roof of the rock, and spread it for a mattress. This native bedding was soft but brimful of wetness. We dropped to sleep readily, but always awoke about midnight, when the mattress began to steam, and there wasn't a night when I didn't feel the sensation of getting a third-class Turkish bath.

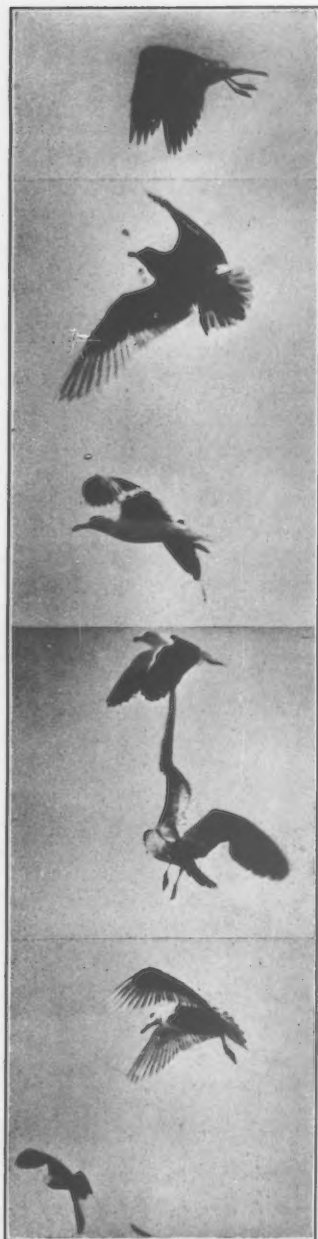
Just on the next two flats above our roof, were two large "chicken yards" of



WESTERN GULL

murres. Although everything was open about our camp, the ventilation was vile. Sleeping next that chicken yard on the floor above, was worse than a room with the doors and windows opening into a pig pen. But what could we do? The whole island was rancid, from the sea-lion bath-tub at the bottom, to the cormorant collection at the very tip, in spite of the airing it got from every wind of heaven.

After breakfast, we started out, Robinson Crusoe-like, to explore the island. We found the only path to the top was working along and passing from ledge to ledge. This was rather difficult in three places. Just above the tent was a wall twelve feet high, that had to be scaled with a rope or pole. Crawling along through the two murre rookeries under the over-hanging rocks, one had to ascend



GULLS IN FLIGHT

a slippery place to the next colony. At this point, there was a projecting knob, where one could look straight over the drop for a hundred and fifty feet, and around which one had to edge his way. A piece above that was a portion of the rock that was broken and crumbling, up which we had to scramble, climbing from the nest of one cormorant to another, till we reached the slope, and then clamber on up to the pinnacle of the rock where we could get our first conception of what the island really was.

The different nests that we found on these rocks may be divided into three classes: the grass nests, burrow nests, and nests that were no nests at all. Under the first group would come the western gull (*Larus occidentalis*) and three kinds of cormorants, Brandt, Baird and the Farallone (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*, *Ph. pelagicus resplendens*, *Ph. dilophus albociliatus*). In the second class would come the tufted puffin (*Lunda cirrhata*), Kaeding petrel (*Oceanodroma kaedingi*), and the forked-tail petrel (*Oceanodroma furcata*). Those having no nests at all would be the California murre (*Uria troile californica*) and the pigeon guillemot (*Cepphus columba*). Of the last bird, we only found a few pairs nesting on the rock. The forked-tailed petrels were rather rare on the rock, where we camped, but a little more common on the middle rock where they nested right in among the Kaeding petrel, but not so common. There were also a few pairs of black oyster-catchers (*Hæmatopus bachmani*) nesting among the ledges. There were no ashy petrels or Cassin auklets as on the Farallones.

One of the prettiest sights about the rock was the gulls that filled the air like so many feathered snow-flakes. Their immaculate white bodies and soft, pearl-grey wings, tipped with black, are as catching as music strains wafted over the river. I liked to watch them, because they were masters of the air. There was a constant adjustment of the wings to meet every air current that swept the rock, but in a steady breeze the movement was too slight to see, and they hung as motionless as if painted in the blue. They tacked straight into the teeth of the wind. I saw one retain a perfect

equilibrium and at the same time, reach forward with his foot and scratch his ear.

But what is beauty, if it is only skin deep? A gull is not the white-winged angel that the poet sees. A gull, in his own country, will steal like a politician and murder like a pirate. They swarmed about us like vultures after a battle. The minute our approach drove a murre or cormorant from its nest, the saintly-looking scalawags swooped down to eat the eggs and young. The gulls are freebooters and robbers on the island, but it is only when the other birds are frightened from their nests that they have a chance to carry out their nefarious trade. Eternal vigilance is the price the cormorants and murre pay for their eggs and young. Their possessions are never left for an instant without a guard unless on account of a person. But the fittest manage to survive on the rock, and these gulls are the most useful birds to man in the bays and rivers about the water-fronts of our cities. They are valuable as scavengers and should be protected in every way possible. Three of them are equal to a buzzard. Ten of

these gulls are equal to a pig.

The gull picks out a comfortable spot and builds a respectable nest, and that is about the only creditable thing he does on the rock. The grass-covered roof of the island is his favorite nesting place, although many select the niches in the bare rock on the face of the cliff. The gull's eggs lie right out in the open and never seem to be bothered by other birds; they, themselves, do not ravage the homes of their own kindred. The eggs are of dull earthy and chocolate-brown tints, with darker blotches, matching their surroundings so perfectly, that we had to be constantly on the lookout to keep from stepping on them. When the eggs were hatched, we found the nestlings were protected by equally deceptive clothes of a mottled grey color.

The old gulls were very solicitous for their young. The minute you go about their homes, they hover over you with loud, warning calls, watch-



YOUNG GULL FEEDING

Courtesy of The Pacific Monthly

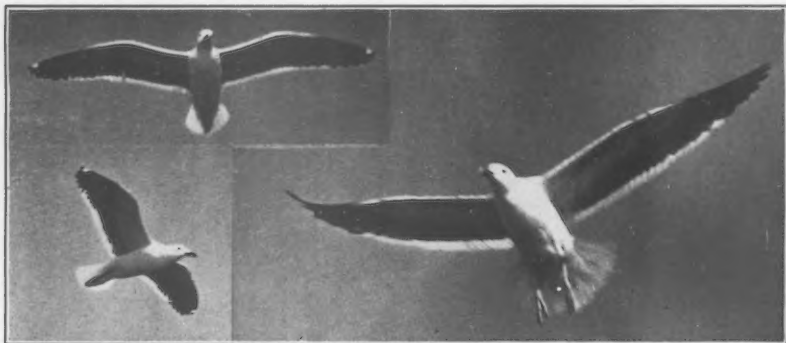
ing every move you make. They teach their young to keep hidden and to lie close. I have seen more than one gull impress this upon her children. One day I was walking along a ledge and came abruptly to a place where I could look down the top slope. Below me a few yards, I saw two half-grown gulls; one crouched beside a rock, but the other started to run down the ridge. He hadn't gone two yards before the mother dove at him with a blow that knocked him rolling. He got up dazed, and struck off in a new direction, but she swooped again and rapped him on the head till he seemed glad enough to crawl in under the nearest weed.

Occasionally we found the gulls very pugnacious. There was one mother that had a nest of three young birds on a narrow ledge, and every time the pho-

tographer approached her nest, she would dart at him. She swooped at his head with a loud bark, something like a watch-dog; at six or eight feet distant, she dropped her legs and took him a sharp clip with her feet. Twice she knocked the hat from the intruder's head. We tried several times to get her picture but were only partially successful. It was not a highly pleasing experiment to try on the edge of a ledge that broke so abruptly off.

I have often seen the western gull act in ways that speak well for his sagacity. On several occasions, I watched him open clams and mussels at the seashore. His bill is unfitted for crushing the hard shell. I saw one gull grasp a clam in his bill, rise to a height of thirty feet and drop it to the hard sand and gravel below. He followed it up closely, but it didn't break. He repeated the same performance over fifteen times before he was successful.

Our camp was partly protected from above by the over-hanging rock, which we thought would be fortunate in case of a storm. As we discovered later, this ledge was rather a dangerous protection, because disintegration was constantly going on. The movements of the birds on the cliff above often dislodged pieces of the basaltic structure. When we were in the midst of a meal, or sitting enjoying



GULLS IN FLIGHT

a few minutes of rest, we were often startled by an avalanche of pebbles. Dropping everything, we would jump for the safer retreats under the ledge, until the rain of stones, often as large as a good sized egg, had ceased.

The roof of the rock is covered from one to three feet with a loose coating of friable earth, composed of rotten rock and the guano of countless generations of seafowl. From this sprouts a luxuriant growth of grass and weeds; rich patches of chick-weed, clover, and other varieties. The whole surface is so perforated with the burrows of puffins and petrels, that one cannot walk any distance without sinking into a nest. The tufted puffins dig in from two to four feet, and a burrow will often have two or three openings. The petrel most always uses the door of a puffin's nest and digs himself a kind of side bedroom off the main corridor. It is not unusual to find one or two puffins along the main hall-way and a couple of petrels lodged in the attic, as it were.

The tufted puffin always impresses me as being more of a beast than a bird. Its huge, strikingly-colored bill, long, yellow curls and roll-shaped body give it the queer appearance. One look at that bill shows that according to Lamarck's

theory, this bird has done nothing since creation but sit around on the rocks and bite open mussels.

Some of the puffin nestlings we found in the burrows were as interesting as their parents were vicious. Two of the jet-black, fuzzy youngsters, we had taken on the in-shore rocks and kept with us for two weeks, soon became domesticated. They were fearful gluttons; they would eat till their crops bulged out as big as their bodies and they couldn't waddle. Then they would sleep off the effects of the meal and soon call for more in a peeping whistle.

One afternoon, I hauled one of the little brats out of a hole hanging to my finger. We lay on the grass on the edge of the cliff, played with him for an hour and doubled up in laughter at the way he would fight. He would jump clear off his feet for a chance to bite your finger. If he caught it, he would hang like a parrot; if he missed, he went with such energy, that he turned a complete somersault before he landed in the soft grass below. Time and time again, he would hurl himself at the challenging finger and go rolling like a ball down the steep incline unable to stop. The instant you assisted him to his feet, he was ready to fight anything that approached within six inches of his nose.

I guess my first experience with the old puffins prejudiced me. I wanted a puffin's egg, so I dropped on the ground, thrust in my arm to take one, but was somewhat taken in myself. The odds are always against your getting the egg, if there is an old setting puffin-hen in the hole. I thought at first I had run my hand into a beaver trap, and I couldn't get loose till I had dug the beast out and pried her jaws open. She had cut through the flesh of my little finger to the bone.

We might have lived on the rock for a month and climbed over it every day and not known a petrel was there, if we had not found their hiding places. They were never seen flying about the rock in the day time. By digging in the soft earth, it was no trouble to unearth their small white eggs. We found that one of the parents, either the male or female, stayed in the burrow every day.

The petrel nestling is fed during the day by the parent thrusting the beak down its mouth and injecting him with a yellowish fluid. The old birds seem to be expert at this, for if you take one out of the burrow he will immediately "play Jonah" in your direction with surprising power of projection. A dose of rancid fish oil suddenly shot up your sleeve is not pleasing either to your nerves at the time, or to your nostrils afterward. If you drop him, he will generally crawl back into his dark hole, or flit off swallow-like and disappear toward the open sea.

I'll never forget the evening we made the dangerous trip clear to the top of the rock in the dusk and hid there on the north slope. At the last gleam of daylight, the petrels swept in upon the island like a swarm of bats. Those in the burrows came chattering out to meet them. The ground beneath seemed full of squeakings and the air of soft twitterings and whistlings, until it felt uncanny. We frequently felt the breath of swift wings, but it was all like a phantasy, for not a bird could be seen, not even a shadow. How in the world a petrel could find his own home and his mate in a whole acre of nesting holes, hidden all about in the grass and in the darkness of the night, is more than I could understand.

(To be concluded.)



WALTER E. BRYANT

In Memoriam: Walter E. Bryant^a

Born 14th January, 1861.—Died 21st May, 1905

BY WALTER K. FISHER

WITH PORTRAIT

NOT since the lamented Chester Barlow passed away, nearly three years ago, has this Society suffered so severe a loss as from the recent death of our esteemed honorary member, Walter E. Bryant. And in this case, too, the final dissolution was wholly unexpected, because none of his friends were aware of his illness until a few days before the sad event. In June 1904 Mr Bryant was sent to San Blas, Mexico, to investigate the tangled affairs of a large fruit concern. With his usual conscientious care he did his work with great completeness and unearthed a system of graft which had all but rendered the company bankrupt. He had never been of robust health, and from overwork and worry in an abominable climate, with worse food, he became seriously ill. He remained at his post, however, until his successor arrived, and then left only after repeated urgings from a friend who happened to be stopping temporarily at San Blas. Mr. Bryant did not fully realize his precarious condition. After his arrival in San Francisco he was sent to a sanatorium, but failed to rally, and passed away on May 21st, at the age of forty-four years.

Although he was still a young man, Bryant may be considered a pioneer in his chosen field because his work was mostly done in, until then, practically unexplored regions or regions which had been only touched. His name, therefore, occupies an important place in West Coast ornithology by reason of his important explorations and his substantial and accurate contributions to the literature of the subject. He collected also mammals, plants, and insects, and published several important papers on mammalogical subjects. Although his first article on natural history appeared as early as 1878 in *Science News*, 1, No. 7, it was not till after his appointment as curator in the California Academy of Sciences, in 1886, that he began to write extensively. As Mr. Grinnell has summarized on another page, "the majority of his published writings appeared from 1887 to 1889 in the 'Bulletin' and 'Proceedings' of the California Academy of Sciences, and from 1890 to 1893 in 'Zoe'; a periodical published for four years at San Francisco." During this time which spans his period of activity in ornithological lines, Mr. Bryant published about forty titles, including reviews. A complete list of his ornithological papers has been compiled by Mr. Grinnell and is appended at the end of this sketch.

Probably the West has never produced a better field ornithologist than Mr. Bryant. He was a most intelligent and painstaking observer, and as a preparator of specimens he certainly stood without a peer. In the Academy of Sciences are many examples of his work, accomplished under great difficulties, and without exception the skins are good. When he had leisure and proper facilities his specimens were works of art. He was also expert in mounting birds, and mounted hummingbirds in the field. In addition to being a skilled preparator, Mr. Bryant was an intrepid explorer. His visit to Guadalupe Island, as an instance, was accomplished in the face of serious physical difficulties, and he nearly starved to death, being obliged to stay about three times as long as he had originally intended.

Walter E. Bryant was born January 14, 1861, at Sonoma, Sonoma Co., California, and was the son of Daniel Sharp, and Susan H. Bryant, who survive him.

^a Read at the September meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club.

From the time he was four years old he resided at Oakland, California (with few exceptions) until 1896, when he moved to Santa Rosa. His education was secured in a private, and afterwards in the public schools of Oakland. As a boy he was always interested in natural history, which predilection announced itself at an early age, when he was never without a bouquet of wild flowers—even in bed. He was trained from childhood by his father in the use of fire-arms, his first gun having been given him when he was seven years old. While still quite young he commenced collecting insects and eggs, and he also mounted birds. He was fond of boating, and built his first boat himself. In 1884 Mr. Bryant took lessons from Mr. William T. Hornaday in mounting mammals, and studied museum work at the National Museum, and the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

The greater part of Mr. Bryant's time was given to ornithology and other natural history work. From 1886 to 1894 he was curator in the California Academy of Sciences where he made a host of friends. His principal trips, during which he collected birds and mammals were as follows: 1883, summer in Oregon; 1884, Guadalupe Island in December; winter of 1885-'86, Guadalupe Island for four months; 1887-'88, California and Nevada; 1889, vicinity of Magdalena Bay and adjacent islands, Lower California; 1890, Gulf Region, Lower California; 1892, in the spring, Santa Rosa del Cabo and vicinity, L. C.; 1901, Central America; 1902 and 1903, summers in Alaska; June 1904 to April 1905, San Blas, Mexico.

Mr. Bryant was especially interested in hummingbirds, of which he had a large collection, which with his collection of nests and eggs is now the property of his mother. His mounted birds were given to his father previous to his last trip, and his mammals were sent last year to the Milwaukee Museum. His other bird skins were disposed of a number of years ago to the California Academy of Sciences.

In 1888 Mr. Bryant became an Active Member of the American Ornithologists' Union but at the time of his death was a Corresponding Fellow. He was one of the founders and first president of the California Ornithological Club, established in 1889, a forerunner of the present Cooper Ornithological Club. He was an early president of the latter organization, of which he was made an honorary member in 1894.

Mr. Bryant holds a high place in the esteem of his fellow workers because he was a good ornithologist and a good friend. He was exceptionally kind to young ornithologists and was ever willing to lend a helping hand. By nature he was reserved and quiet, but generous and loyal, and cheerful under adverse circumstances. One who knew him better perhaps than did any other member of the Club, writes as follows:

"Today tender memories are awakened of one who has passed away. I have just found one of his letters, written some twenty years ago. Friend Walter Bryant and I had been much afiel together. In this finely penned note he tells me of some specimens he has saved for me, also stating having found in a San Francisco taxidermist's shop an example of *Selasphorus floresii*, the second specimen, as he says, known to ornithologists.

"Mr. Bryant, as I have known him, was a quiet, reserved, sparely built man, whom it was necessary to know by close association to appreciate his true worth. He was not given to joking but could tell a good story, and was kind to a degree to all. His was a large heart and an honest intent. He always had a good word for every one and was ready to help the novice in bird lore as I had on many an occasion to learn in our early acquaintance.

"No insect or bird could escape his eye or ear, as I learned from camp life with him under the white-limbed buckeyes on the banks of a trickling stream be-

neath Chick's Cliff in the famed 'Pine Canyon.' The first thing in early day-break, with the last call of the poor-will, Bryant would turn over and say from under his night-cap: 'Come, Emerson, a fire, a cup of coffee, and then off for the early bird.' No matter where or how hard the tramp might be, he was ready for it, and would take you to the nesting grounds of the gnatcatcher or to the duck-hawk's eyry in some 'Castle Rocks.' He was slow of movement but sure of purpose, and to tell him of some little known bird or animal was to start him off for it at once."

Our veteran ornithologist, Mr. Lyman Belding, on hearing of Mr. Bryant's death, wrote the following appreciation:

"He inherited a love of nature and a love of adventure which in early youth took him to the cliffs of Mount Diablo for eggs of the Prairie Falcon, and other ornithological prizes, and later to inhospitable Guadalupe Island and more distant parts of the Pacific Coast. He was a good observer, a facile writer, and a most agreeable companion. During a long, intimate acquaintance covering quite extended collecting trips, the writer invariably found him genial and gentlemanly."

The Ornithological Writings of Walter E. Bryant

BY JOSEPH GRINNELL

AS will be noticed from a perusal of the following list of titles, the majority of Bryant's published writings appeared from 1887 to 1889 in the "Bulletin" and "Proceedings" of the California Academy of Sciences, and from 1890 to 1893 in "Zoe," a periodical published for four years at San Francisco. These seven years marked the period of Bryant's greatest activity in Natural History lines, and the articles resulting from this work evince an evident endeavor to express plainly and accurately whatever he thought worthy of record. Not that his descriptions and recitals are tiresomely commonplace; for I have seldom read anything more fascinating to a naturalist than the accounts of his experiences while collecting in Lower California and on Guadalupe Island. These, in particular, I would advise every CONDOR reader to look up, and read, as well worth while. And as for the scientific value of Bryant's recorded observations, where can we find any more reliable and valuable contributions to West Coast ornithology? The life-histories of many of our remotely restricted species would remain today almost wholly unknown, if Bryant had not spent lonely months in their study, and then composed what he learned in the form in which we find it now so instructive.

- 1880. Notes on the Habits of *Rallus obsoletus*, with a Description of its Eggs. <Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club V, April, pp. 124-125.
- 1884. Nest and Eggs of *Myiadestes townsendi*. <Auk I, January, pp. 91-92.
- 1885. The Relationship of *Podiceps occidentalis* and *P. clarkii*. <Auk II, July, pp. 313-314.
- 1886. Additions to California Avifauna. <Forest & Stream XXVI, June, p. 426.
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1889. *Puffinus griseus* (Gmel.), *Puffinus gavia* (Forst.) and *Stercorarius pomarinus* (Temm.) on the Coast of California. <Proc. Cal. Ac. Sc., 2nd Ser. II, October, p. 87.
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1892. [Review of] Recent Literature. <Zoe III, July, pp. 179-180.
1893. Second Occurrence of the Fox Sparrow in California. <Zoe III, January, p. 363.
1893. Occurrence of *Clangula hyemalis* in California. <Zoe III, January p. 363.
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1893. The Bohemian Waxwing in California. <Zoe IV, October, p. 226.
1894. Eggs of the White-throated Swift. <Nidologist II, September, pp. 7-8.



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Birds from the West Coast of Lower California and Adjacent Islands

BY HENRY B. KAEDING

(Concluded from page 111)

- F**alco sparverius phalaena (LESS.). Desert Sparrow Hawk. Todos Santos Island March 20th; Guadalupe Island March 22nd; not common where found.
- Falco sparverius peninsularis MEARNS. St. Lucas Sparrow Hawk. San Jose del Cabo April 23rd, not common.
- Polyborus lutosus RIDGW. Guadalupe Caracara. Guadalupe Island; one seen March 22nd; apparently nearly extinct.
- Pandion haliaetus carolinensis (GMEL.). American Osprey. Common on San Martin, Todos Santos, San Geronimo, San Benitos, Cerros, and Natividad Islands, breeding; fresh eggs were taken as early as March 10th.
- Strix pratincola BONAP. American Barn Owl. A few seen on Todos Santos Island March 10th.
- Speotyto cunicularia hypogaea (BONAP.). Burrowing Owl. Todos Santos Island, March 10th; San Benitos Islands March 27th; not common at either locality.
- Speotyto rostrata C. H. TOWNSEND. Clarion Island Owl. Quite common on Clarion Island, breeding some time in June, apparently.
- Micropallas graysoni (RIDGW.). Socorro Elf Owl. Rare and hard to find on Socorro Island; one taken May 10th.
- Conurus holochlorus brevipes BAIRD. Socorro Island Paraquet. Abundant on Socorro Island, but not showing signs of breeding May 2nd.
- Dryobates lucasanus (XANTUS). St. Lucas Woodpecker. Common at San Jose del Cabo April 20th; one specimen taken at Playa Maria Bay July 8th.
- Centurus uropygialis BAIRD. Gila Woodpecker. Common about San Jose del Cabo on April 20th.
- Colaptes cafer collaris (VIGORS). Red-shafted Flicker. One noted at Todos Santos Island March 10th.
- Colaptes chrysoides (MALH.). Gilded Flicker. Common about San Jose del Cabo April 20th.
- Colaptes rufipileus RIDGW. Guadalupe Flicker. Rarely seen on Guadalupe Island
- + Chordeiles texensis (LAWR.). Texan Nighthawk. Taken at San Jose del Cabo April 23rd; a nighthawk was also observed on Socorro Island, but was not taken and the species remains undetermined
- + Aeronautes melanoleucus (BAIRD). White-throated Swift. A small flock was seen on Guadalupe Island March 25th.
- + Calypste costae (BOURC.). Costa Hummingbird. Todos Santos Island March 10th, San Benitos, March 27th; Turtle Bay April 14th; fairly common wherever noted.
- + Calypste anna (LESS.). Anna Hummingbird. Todos Santos Island March 10th, fairly common.
- Basilinna xantusi (LAWR.). Xantus Hummingbird. Common at San Jose del Cabo on April 23rd.
- Tyrannus verticalis SAY. Arkansas Kingbird. Noted at Todos Santos Island March 10th and at Cerros Island April 1.
- + Myiarchus cinerascens pertinax (BAIRD). Lower California Flycatcher. A few noted at San Jose del Cabo April 23rd.
- Sayornis saya (BONAP.). Say Phoebe. One seen on Cerros Island March 31st.

Sayornis nigricans (SWAINS.). Black Phoebe. One pair on Todos Santos Island March 10th.

+ *Empidonax cineritius* BREWST. St. Lucas Flycatcher. A small *Empidonax* noted at San Jose del Cabo, April 22, and another at San Juanico Bay, July 12th, are provisionally referred to this species.

Pyrocephalus rubineus mexicanus (SCL.) Vermilion Flycatcher. A few of these brilliant birds were seen at San Jose del Cabo April 22nd.

+ *Otocoris alpestris pallida* TOWNSEND. Sonoran Horned Lark. Taken on San Martin Island March 12th, on San Benitos Islands March 27th, on Natividad Island July 10th; common where found.

Aphelocoma californica hypoleuca RIDGW. Xantus Jay. Quite common about San Jose del Cabo April 23rd.

— *Corvus corax sinuatus* (WAGL.). American Raven. Breeding on Todos Santos Island March 10th, on San Martin Island March 12th, on San Geronimo Island March 15th, on San Benitos Islands March 27th with young; pairs noted on Cerros Island July 4th, on Natividad Island April 9th, and on San Roque Island April 16th; abundant on San Benedicte Island April 29th and on Clarion Island May 23rd. These residents on San Benedicte and Clarion show characters that would seem to warrant their separation as a new race, and this has been done for the bird from Clarion Island,^a but based upon a single specimen only, in worn plumage; all the specimens collected by our party being also in badly worn condition it is impossible to say definitely what the status of these island birds really is until they are taken in fresh breeding plumage.

Sturnella magna neglecta (AUD.). Western Meadowlark. A few seen on Todos Santos Island March 10th.

Icterus parisorum BONAP. Scott Oriole. Common about San Jose del Cabo April 23rd.

Icterus cucullatus nelsoni RIDGW. Arizona Hooded Oriole. Quite common about San Jose del Cabo April 23rd.

Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis (SAY). House Finch. Common on Todos Santos Island March 10th.

Carpodacus mexicanus ruberrimus RIDGW. St. Lucas House Finch. Abundant about San Jose del Cabo April 23rd, with fresh eggs at this date.

— *Carpodacus amplus* RIDGW. Guadalupe House Finch. Abundant on Guadalupe Island, nesting principally in the cholla cactus (*Opuntia prolifera* Engl.). We took sets of eggs that were fresh on March 22nd. This bird seems well protected from the ravages of the cats that are thinning the ranks of the petrels and juncos, due to its habit of building the nest in the cactus, thus making the nest inaccessible to the felines even though it be but eighteen inches from the ground.

— *Carpodacus mcgregori* ANTHONY. McGregor House Finch. Taken on San Benito Island March 27th and on Cerros Island April 1st; this species, never common anywhere, is practically extinct now.

Loxia curvirostra stricklandi RIDGW. Mexican Crossbill. A few were seen in the pines at the top of the Island March 22nd.

Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus (BONAP.). Western Savannah Sparrow. A small flock of these birds was seen on Todos Santos Island March 10th.

— *Passerculus beldingi* RIDGW. Belding Marsh Sparrow. Found breeding on Todos Santos Island, with fresh eggs March 10th.

— *Passerculus rostratus* (CASS.). Large-billed Sparrow. Fairly common on San Benitos Islands July 14th and at San Juanico Bay June 12th.

^a Cf. Rothschild & Hartert, Nov. Zool., IX. 1902, 381.

— *Passerculus rostratus guttatus* (LAWR.). St. Lucas Sparrow. Common at Abrejos Point April 19th, with fresh eggs, and at same locality June 17th^a seen at San Jose del Cabo April 23rd.

Passerculus rostratus halophilus (MCGREGOR). Lagoon Sparrow. Has been referred to *Passerculus rostratus guttatus* (LAWR.).^a

— *Passerculus rostratus sanctorum* RIDGW.). San Benito Sparrow. Abundant on San Benitos Islands, with fresh eggs March 27th to 30th.

Chondestes grammacus strigatus (SWAINS.). Western Lark Sparrow. Rather common about San Jose del Cabo on April 23rd.

Zonotrichia leucophrys (FORST.). White-crowned Sparrow. Common about San Jose del Cabo on April 23rd.

Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli (NUTT.). Intermediate Sparrow. Common on Todos Santos and San Martin Islands March 10th to 12th.

Spizella pallida (SWAINS.). Clay-colored Sparrow. Common about San Jose del Cabo on April 23rd.

Spizella breweri CASS. Brewer Sparrow. Rather common about San Jose del Cabo April 23rd.

Junco insularis RIDGW. Guadalupe Junco. Abundant on Guadalupe Island, with fledged young and fresh eggs (second sets?) on the 22nd of March; the cats are making inroads on this species.

Amphispiza bilineata deserticola RIDGW. Desert Sparrow. Found at Cerros Island April 1st, at San Jose del Cabo April 24th, and at Natividad Island July 1st; not common where seen.

Amphispiza belli (CASS.). Bell Sparrow. San Martin Island, March 12th, not common.

— *Aimophila ruficeps* (CASS.). Rufous-crowned Sparrow. Noted on Todos Santos Island March 10th and on San Martin Island March 12th, not common (*Aimophila ruficeps sororia*?).

Melospiza lincolni (AUD.). Lincoln Sparrow. Seen and taken at Cerros Island April 1st; rare in this locality.

— *Pipilo carmani* (LAWR.). Carman Towhee. Very common on Socorro Island May 5th, breeding season being apparently entirely over and the birds in worn plumage.

Oreospiza chlorura (AUD.). Green-tailed Towhee. Several seen at San Jose del Cabo April 22nd.

Pipilo fuscus albigula (BAIRD). St. Lucas Towhee. San Jose del Cabo April 25th, not common.

— *Pipilo fuscus senicula* ANTHONY. Anthony Towhee. Todos Santos Island March 10th; Plava Maria Bay July 8th; not common.

Cardinalis cardinalis igneus (BAIRD). St. Lucas Cardinal. Common about San Jose del Cabo April 22nd.

Pyrrhuloxia sinuata peninsulæ RIDGW. St. Lucas Pyrrhuloxia. Quite common about San Jose del Cabo April 22nd.

Guiraca cærulea lazula (LESS.). Western Blue Grosbeak. Not uncommon about San Jose del Cabo April 23rd.

— *Cyanospiza versicolor pulchra* (RIDGW.). Beautiful Bunting. Common about San Jose del Cabo April 24th.^a

— *Calamospiza melanocorys* STEJN. Lark Bunting. One specimen taken on Cerros Island July 4th.

a. Cf. Brewster Birds of the Cape Region of Lower California. Bull. Harv. Mus. Comp. Zool., XLI, 1902.

- Hirundo erythrogastra* BODD. Barn Swallow. One specimen taken on Clarion Island May 21st.
- Lanius ludovicianus gambeli* RIDGW. California Shrike. One seen at Turtle Bay April 14th.
- Helminthophila celata lutescens* RIDGW. Lutescent Warbler. Several seen on Todos Santos Island March 10th.
- + *Compsothlypis graysoni* (RIDGW.). Grayson Warbler. Abundant on Socorro Island May 2nd.
- + *Dendroica aestiva* (GMEL.). Yellow Warbler. Seen at San Jose del Cabo April 24th, not common.
- Dendroica auduboni* (TOWNS.). Audubon Warbler. Several seen on Todos Santos Island March 10th.
- Geothlypis trichas occidentalis* REEWST. Western Yellowthroat. One seen on Cerros Island April 1st (*G. t. arizela* OBERH.?).
- Geothlypis beldingi* RIDGW. Belding Yellowthroat. Common about San Jose del Cabo April 24th.
- Anthus pensilvanicus* (LATH.). American Pipit. San Martin Island March 10th and San Jose del Cabo April 22nd, common at both localities.
- + *Oroscoptes montanus* (TOWNS.). Sage Thrasher. One seen at San Martin Island March 12th.
- + *Mimodes graysoni* (BAIRD). Socorro Mock. Very common on Socorro Island May 2nd.
- + *Toxostoma cinereum* (XANTUS). St. Lucas Thrasher. San Jose del Cabo April 24th, not common.
- + *Toxostoma cinereum mearnsi* (ANTHONY). Mearns Thrasher. San Juanico Bay June 12th, not common.
- + *Toxostoma lecontei arenicolum* (ANTHONY). Desert Thrasher. San Juanico Bay June 12th and Playa Maria Bay July 8th, not common.
- *Heleodytes brunneicapillus bryanti* ANTHONY. Bryant Cactus Wren. Turtle Bay. April 14th, not common.
- *Heleodytes brunneicapillus affinis* (XANTUS). St. Lucas Cactus Wren. Abundant about San Jose del Cabo April 22nd, nesting.
- Salpinctes obsoletus* (SAY). Rock Wren. San Martin Island March 10th, San Benitos Island March 27th, Cerros Island April 1st, San Benedicte Island April 29th, abundant where found.
- Salpinctes guadalupensis* RIDGW. Guadalupe Rock Wren. Common on Gualalupe Island, with large young March 22nd.
- Catherpes mexicanus punctulatus* RIDGW. Dotted Canyon Wren. Several heard singing on Todos Santos Island March 10th.
- Thryomanes bewicki spilurus* (VIG.) Vigors Wren. A single specimen taken at San Juanico Bay June 12th.
- Thryomanes leucophrys* (ANTHONY). San Clemente Wren. Cerros Island April 1st and July 4th, not common.
- Thryomanes brevicaudus* RIDGW. Guadalupe Wren. Seen on Guadalupe Island March 22nd; nearly extinct, due to the destruction of the underbrush by the hordes of goats.
- Troglodytes aedon aztecus* BAIRD. Western House Wren. One specimen taken on San Benitos Island March 27th.
- Troglodytes insularis* (BAIRD). Socorro Wren. Common on Socorro Island May 2nd.

- *Troglodytes tanneri* C. H. TOWNSEND. Clarion Island Wren. Abundant on Clarion Island May 21st.
- Sitta canadensis* LINN. Red-breasted Nuthatch. Several seen and heard on Guadalupe Island March 22nd.
- Auriparus flaviceps lamprocephalus* OBERH. Baird Verdin. Abundant at San Jose del Cabo April 22nd; common at San Juanico Bay June 12th.
- Regulus calendula obscurus* (RIDGW.). Dusky Kinglet. Guadalupe Island March 22nd, extremely rare.
- Poliophtila californica* BREWST. Black-tailed Gnatcatcher. San Juanico Bay June 12th, not common.
- + *Myiadestes townsendi* (AUD.). Townsend Solitaire. One seen on Guadalupe Island March 22nd.
- + *Hylocichla guttata nana* (AUD.). Dwarf Hermit Thrush. San Martin Island March 12th, Todos Santos Island March 10th, not uncommon.
- + *Merula migratoria propinqua* (RIDGW.). Western Robin. Common on Todos Santos Island March 10th.
- + *Merula confinis* (BAIRD). St. Lucas Robin. Seen about San Jose del Cabo April 22nd, but not common.

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Dry Notes from Dry Lake

BY JOSEPH DIXON

D RY LAKE is tucked away among the mountain ridges about 2400 feet below the summit of San Gorgonio Peak, San Bernardino Co., California. This lake has an elevation of over 9000 feet, and at times it is a very pretty little stretch of water covering five or six acres. We found when we visited it on the twenty-first day of last June, that it contained considerable water which was due to last winter's heavy snowfall. Yet during certain previous years it has held very little or no water; hence the name.

There is a fringe of dead Murray pines some 50 yards in breadth bordering the lake. Back of this there is a dense forest of Murray pines, extending up the slope of the mountain side where the trees become smaller and smaller and more gnarled and stunted as they approach timber line; while in the background the snow-capped summit of San Gorgonio Peak stands like a sentinel of old, keeping watch over the little lake nestled among the mountain ridges below it.

Just north of the lake is a beautiful little cienega while on the slope above this are a few Jeffrey pines scattered over the mountain side which is covered with chinquapin thickets. As we were descending the mountain side above the lake Mr. Grinnell shot at a Sierra hermit thrush (*Hylocichla g. sequoiensis*), which flew up into a small grove of dense pines. The report of the gun flushed a gray flycatcher (*Empidonax canescens*) from a small pine tree. I secured the bird as she lit on an adjoining tree and soon located the nest which was placed about nine feet up in a slender pine. The nest was made of the inner bark of a kind of willow that grew nearby. This material being of a light color made the nest rather conspicuous as it contrasted with the dark foliage of the pine trees. The nest though bulky was neatly made and contained four light cream-colored eggs. The eggs were not spotted and incubation was far advanced.

We went on past the lake and made camp up a side canyon; then started out to explore the vicinity. I had just started when I heard a deep mellow drumming off in the woods ahead of me. Then suddenly the drumming became higher pitched and the vibrations more rapid. After a short interval I again heard the deep mellow roll. I sneaked up near a big dead pine tree from which the sound seemed to issue. Pretty soon a Cabanis woodpecker (*Dryobates v. hyloscopus*) hopped up on one of the big dead branches and, bracing himself, gave the branch several rapid pecks with his bill. This produced the deep mellow roll that I had heard at first. He then dropped down to a lower smaller limb and repeated the performance causing the high pitched roll. He then hopped up to the big branch then back to the smaller branch and drummed again. The various noises that he produced reminded me very much of some one playing on a xylophone, and, although I have heard many other woodpeckers drumming, this one was to my mind unique as he was able to handle several limbs at once, in good time.

An ashy kinglet (*Regulus calendula cineraceus*) sang from the top of one of the largest pines until sunset when the clear limpid notes of the Sierra hermit thrush floated down from the meadow above us. The song of the hermit thrush is, to my mind, the most exquisite of bird music. At early morning or late evening they could be heard from the mountain slope above and cautious approach revealed them perched on the top of some large pine tree which stood among deep snow drifts which covered the north slope of the mountain.

Soon after sunset the western night hawks (*Chordeiles v. henryi*) made their appearance, flying about uttering their rasping *pe-ark, pe-ark*, or pitching down

over the lake causing a deep booming sound which was plainly heard a long way through the calm cold air of evening.

A short time after we had gone to bed we heard an owl hooting over in the woods near the lake. The call notes were new to us but we failed to locate their source. About midnight I was awakened by Mr. Grinnell as he slipped out of bed. I watched him for several minutes as he stole stealthily about peering up into the pine trees. Then as a little owl came flitting over the campfire I recognized the cause of his nocturnal wanderings. The owl flew back and forth near the fire, perching for a moment now and then on the lower branches of a pine tree. Mr. Grinnell kept up with the bird, now advancing, now retreating, while his march was punctuated with smothered exclamations as his stocking feet came in contact with pine cones. Suddenly the sharp spiteful crack of the "aux" rang out; the owl circled over the bed and disappeared in the darkness. Nothing else disturbed our fitful slumbers until the golden rays of the sun reflected brightly from the snow covered summit of old Grayback.

Some weeks later at Bluff Lake we again heard an owl calling. The notes were exactly the same as those heard at Dry Lake. The bird seemed to be off about 300 yards on a ridge but we found that the notes were very deceptive, and that the bird was not so far away as it seemed to be. Mr. Grinnell finally located the bird in the top of a tall pine tree and a charge of number six shot brought it down. It was a flammulated screech owl (*Otus flammula*).

Our provisions were running low, so after a very light breakfast, which consisted of two hardtacks, five dried prunes, five ginger snaps and a few sour beans for each of us, we set out to examine our mammal traps. As I was returning to camp a male Williamson sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*) flew by me and lit on the side of a Murray pine. I shot the bird. When I picked him up I saw that his bill was full of ants. I began to look for a nest as I felt sure that he was carrying the ants to his mate or their young. I looked up the tree and saw several holes. Then a faint squeaking came to my ears. The tree was alive but up about twenty feet were four holes drilled about eighteen inches apart. I found when I chopped the nest out that the wood where the holes were pecked was dead and partially rotten. The nest cavity was about ten inches deep and was occupied by three young birds which were still covered with natal down. In the bottom of the nest, partially covered with fine chips were two sterile eggs. The birds were very noisy; also hungry as they tried to swallow my finger every time it came too close to their bills. The female was near and seemed very much concerned. Her anxiety was perhaps increased by the loss of her mate so I fixed up the hole I had cut and descended. Although she had the responsibility and work of two thrown on her in rearing the young, she seemed equal to the occasion for when I visited the nest two weeks later the young had flown. Later in the day another nest was found similarly located containing four half fledged young.

Audubon warblers (*Dendroica auduboni*) flitted about among the trees carrying worms and insects to their mates or broods which were hidden away among the thick boughs of some pine tree. Just above the cienega in a thicket of chinquapin bushes we flushed a family of Stephens fox sparrows (*Passerella i. stephensi*). The young were barely able to fly but scattered in all directions on our approach.

The brilliant morning sunlight soon drove away the chilliness that had settled over the woods during the night, and brought forth the birds from their various resting places. Their lively twittering and call notes reminded us that we too must begin our day's work, so we packed our blankets and traps and threw them across our shoulders, picked up our guns, and started over the ridge towards the north where our base camp lay some 3000 feet below us.

Pasadena, California.

Notes on a Small Collection of California Birds
with Description of an Apparently Unrecognized Race of Hutton's Vireo

BY LOUIS B. BISHOP, M. D.

AMONG somewhat over 1000 beautifully made bird-skins collected for me in 1903 and 4 by Mr. H. W. Marsden at Redlands, San Bernardino County, and Witch Creek and Pacific Beach, San Diego County, California, the following seem of enough interest to be placed on record. The Volcan Mountains, Mr. Marsden writes me, are twelve miles from Witch Creek.

— *Synthliboramphus antiquus*. Ancient Murrelet. A male in worn winter plumage, with its feathers matted with petroleum, was found dead at Pacific Beach on April 25, 1904.

— *Stercorarius longicaudus*. Long-tailed Jaeger. A young male, taken at Pacific Beach, Sept. 19, 1904.

— *Sterna elegans*. Elegant Tern. An adult male, taken at Pacific Beach, Sept. 21, 1904.

— *Sterna hirundo*. Common Tern. Three adult males, two of them in winter plumage, taken at Pacific Beach, Sept. 12, 8, 15, 1904.

Charitonetta albeola. Buffle-head. A male in peculiarly worn and faded first winter plumage, taken at Pacific Beach, April 22, 1904. The upper parts and wings are brownish black broadly edged with ashy or creamy white. The chin is wood brown, and most of the loreal region and sides of neck varies between wood brown and drab. Of the tail feathers little but the shafts remain and many of these have been broken off close to the body. The contour feathers as a whole are greatly worn and noticeably shorter than usual. This bird probably was in the second spring, but for some reason had failed to moult for a year and a half. A triangular patch of black but worn feathers on the forehead with others on the lores and extending on both sides toward the chin was probably assumed in the fall of 1903 in an abortive attempt at adult dress.

— *Rallus levipes*. Bangs's Rail. Eleven specimens, taken at Pacific Beach in October, January, and April are remarkably uniform in color and size, and agree closely with Mr. Bangs's description of this species. Unfortunately I have been unable to compare them with specimens of *R. beldingi* and *R. obsoletus*.

— *Macrorhamphus griseus scolopaceus*. Long-billed Dowitcher. A young male and young female, taken at Pacific Beach, Sept. 16, 1904.

— *Tringa canutus*. Knot. Two young males, taken at Pacific Beach on Sept. 10 and 16, 1904. Mr. Marsden wrote that he did not consider the knot rare there, as he saw several others.

— *Actodromas bairdi*. Baird's Sandpiper. A young female taken at Pacific Beach, Sept. 8, 1904.

— *Aphriza virgata*. Surf Bird. A young male, taken at Pacific Beach, Sept. 8, 1904.

Arenaria interpres. European Turnstone. A young female turnstone, taken at Pacific Beach, Sept. 8, 1904. Mr. Oberholser agrees with me in referring it to this species.

— *Accipiter velox rufilatus*. Western Sharp-shinned Hawk. Adult male collected by Mr. Marsden at Witch Creek on Nov. 5, 1904, and Newcastle, Colorado, on Aug. 13, 1902, agree with Mr. Ridgway's description of *A. v. rufilatus*, but an adult female and young female from Witch Creek, taken on Dec. 10, 1904, and

Dec. 31, 1903, are diametrically opposed to his description of this race, being paler below than the Connecticut bird.

Falco richardsoni. Richardson's Merlin. A young female, taken at Witch Creek, on Feb. 9, 1904.

Phalænoptilus nuttalli nitidus. Frosted Poor-will. Eleven poor-wills, taken at Witch Creek in the summer of 1904, Mr. Nelson pronounces much nearer to this form than to the other race.

Empidonax canescens. Gray Flycatcher. A female taken April 20, and a male on April 22, 1903, at Redlands.

Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis. California Crow. A female taken at Redlands on March 20, 1903, and a male at Witch Creek on Jan. 22, 1904, agree with Mr. Ridgway's description of this race in having slightly longer and more slender bills than eastern birds. Another peculiarity is that the wings and tail are much browner than any of a series of twenty-four Connecticut crows.

Agelaius phœniceus sonoriensis. Sonoran Redwing. Two males and a female taken at Redlands on Jan. 22, March 28, and Jan. 10, 1903, and a male taken at Witch Creek on April 13, 1904, Mr. Oberholser considers this subspecies.

Astragalinus psaltria hesperophilus. Green-backed Goldfinch. An adult male taken at Witch Creek, Nov. 24, 1903 has the scapulars chiefly black.

Passerculus sandwichensis bryanti. Bryant's Marsh Sparrow. A male taken at Witch Creek on Feb. 12, 1904.

Zonotrichia leucophrys. White-crowned Sparrow. A year old male, taken at Witch Creek on April 8, 1904, and a young female in the Volcan Mountains on Dec. 3, 1904.

Zonotrichia leucophrys nuttalli. Nuttall's Sparrow. Gambel's sparrow was naturally the common form at Redlands, but Mr. Marsden collected a single adult male Nuttall's sparrow there on Jan. 27, 1903.

Junco hyemalis thurberi. Thurber's Junco. Three breeding males taken in the Volcan Mts., June 22-9, 1904, are intermediate between this form and *pinosus*, having the throat grayer than the former and the head slightly blacker than the latter, but are somewhat nearer *thurberi*. A beautiful, albinistic, male junco was collected at Witch Creek on Nov. 10, 1904, in company with a typical female Thurber's junco, which is also in my collection. The bill, tarsi, toes, and nails are pinkish white; forehead, lores, infra-orbital region, chin, lower breast, abdomen, wings and tail, white; the wings and tail slightly mottled with ashy; a slight pinkish suffusion on the sides and the greater wing-coverts; and the rest of the plumage, including the throat, and entire upper parts, blackish slate or slate-color, edged with grayish white. In coloring, therefore, this bird is nearer *hyemalis* than to *thurberi*.

A female also taken at Witch Creek on Dec. 14, 1903, has the chin and part of the throat grayish white.

Passerella iliaca schistacea. Slate-colored Fox Sparrow. Of thirteen fox sparrows taken near Witch Creek in December, 1904, eight are of this subspecies, one, *megarhyncha*, and one, intermediate.

Passerella iliaca annectens. Yakutat Fox Sparrow. Mr. Oberholser identifies as of this race two males and a female taken at Witch Creek, Dec. 21, 1904.

Pipilo maculatus atratus. San Diego Towhee. The towhee of Witch Creek and the Volcan Mts. is this subspecies.

Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides. White-rumped Shrike. Two males taken at Witch Creek on Nov. 26, 1903, and Jan. 25, 1904.

+ *Vireo huttoni oberholseri*, new subspecies. Oberholser's Vireo.

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS—Similar to *Vireo huttoni* but darker, grayer, and less buffy olive above; below, paler and grayer with less buffy suffusion on chest and sides.

HABITAT—San Diego County, California.

TYPE—Adult male, No. 10,891, collection of Louis B. Bishop, Witch Creek, San Diego Co., California, April 9, 1904. No. 1061 of H. W. Marsden, collector.

Seven vireos collected by Mr. Marsden at Witch Creek on March 16, April 9, (2), Nov. 10 and 23, and Dec. 10 and 14, 1904, differ from specimens of *V. huttoni* in corresponding stages of plumage, collected at various points between Redlands and San Geronimo, California, as described above. These differences are more marked in the March and April birds, and three I at first referred to *V. h. stephensi*, until Mr. Oberholser called my attention to their distinctness. They are considerably darker and smaller than *V. h. stephensi*, darker than *V. h. cognatus*, and lack the decided olive above and buff below of *V. h. obscurus*. Apparently they exemplify the tendency shown by *Pipilo maculatus* to assume a dark form in San Diego County, the lack of the buffy olive on the upper parts giving a dusky effect to the plumage although the tips of the feathers are grayer than in *V. huttoni*. Thus they seem not to be intermediate between any recognized races, and I am forced to agree with Mr. Oberholser in thinking they require a name. This race I take pleasure in naming in his honor, and wish to express my thanks to him and to the authorities of the National Museum for lending me a series of the different races of *V. huttoni*.

Dendroica aestiva rubiginosa. Alaskan Yellow Warbler. At Witch Creek a female was collected on May 3, two males on May 6 and 11, and a male on Oct. 12, 1904.

Regulus calendula grinnelli. Sitkan Kinglet. A female taken at Redlands on March 24, 1903.

Regulus calendula cineraceus. Ashy Kinglet. This appears to be a much more strongly differentiated race than the last, and therefore more worthy of recognition. Mr. Marsden has collected me five from California, four from Arizona, and three from Colorado, and the California, and Arizona birds are larger and much paler than Connecticut specimens of *calendula* in approximately the same condition of plumage. The Arizona birds are the largest and palest and those from Colorado intermediate with *calendula* but nearer *cineraceus*.

Hylocichla guttata slevini. Monterey Hermit Thrush. A male taken at Redlands, April 16, 1903.

Sialia mexicana occidentalis. Western Bluebird. A female, taken at Redlands on April 8, 1903 has most of the crown, nape, sides of head, neck and throat white.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Calamospiza melanocorys Seen in Santa Barbara.—On July 20th of this year, while returning along the county road to the house at which I was staying in the outskirts of Santa Barbara, I was surprised to hear a strange bird-note close behind me. Upon turning around I was still more surprised to see three strange birds flying across the road but a few yards away from me. One of the three lit in the top of a small acacia tree close to the road while the others flew on beyond. The one in the tree endeavored to hide when it noticed me and as I tried to identify it by getting closer it flew out of the tree onto the top rail of a board fence about twenty-five yards away. After waiting until I walked to within fifteen yards it flew down in the grass beyond. I immediately went to the house for a weapon and returned to the spot. On my approach this bird flushed with a number of lark finches (*Chondestes g. strigatus*) and western chipping sparrows (*Spizella s. arizonae*) and flew out of reach, soon separating from the other birds and following the direction taken by its original companions. Diligent search failed to

discover any further trace of them. I have never seen this species alive, but the size, general shape, coloration and the conspicuous white patch on the wing would not apply to any other than immature *Calamospiza melanocorys*—lark bunting—while the strange note which first attracted my attention agrees with Mrs. Bailey's description; viz: a soft *hoo-ee*, peculiarly sweet and given with a rising inflection.

This is apparently the first record of this bird in Santa Barbara Co., and it is a great pity that a specimen was not obtained.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD.

Washington Notes.—The following notes made by my brother and myself are, as far as we can learn, the first records for these birds breeding in the state of Washington.

Cinnamon Teal (*Querquedula cyanoptera*). On May 4, 1904, at Kiona, Yakima County, Wash. Nest contained six fresh eggs, and was placed on the ground at a short distance from some small ponds. Two pairs of birds seen. Collected by J. H. Bowles.

Northwest Coast Heron (*Ardea herodias fannini*). On April 20, 1905, at Sumner, Pierce County, Wash. Nest contained four heavily incubated eggs. In a colony of about twenty-five pairs. Very large nest made of very small dead limbs, lined with very small twigs. Placed eighty feet up in a young fir in a large grove of same situated quarter of a mile from a lake. So far as we can learn this is the first recorded set of this subspecies. Collected by J. H. Bowles.

Cooper Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*). During the summer of 1904 two nests containing young were found in the vicinity of Tacoma, Pierce County, Wash., by Mr. Ed. L. Currier of Tacoma. These are the first records that have come to our knowledge, but on May 20, 1905, another nest, containing five fresh eggs was found, placed seventy feet up in a fir tree in densely wooded low ground. Collected by C. W. and J. H. Bowles.

California Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*). On June 1, 1905, in the vicinity of Tacoma, Pierce County, Wash. Nest contained two slightly incubated eggs. Nest large and well made, being constructed of coarse crab-apple twigs, and lined with moss and fir needles. Placed eight feet up in small fir in dense mixed fir and deciduous growth. Collected by C. W. Bowles.—J. H. and C. W. BOWLES, Tacoma, Wash.

A Correction.—In referring to *Setophaga picta* on page 81 of May CONDOR, I ascribed the first known set of eggs to Mr. Stephens's credit. I inadvertently overlooked W. E. Bryant's record of a set collected by Mr. Herbert Brown in the Santa Rita Mts., June 6, 1880 (Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, VI, 1881, 176). Mr. Brown's set was therefore the first.—HARRY S. SWARTH.

Nesting of a Hummingbird in a Barn.—Of all the changes in nesting habits that have come under my observation none equals that of a hummingbird recently reported by Mr. George Luce, one of my ornithological friends residing at Haywards. In the summer of 1903 he found a hummer's nest attached to a knot of a bale-rope ten feet from the roof of a barn and about thirty feet from the ground. When he observed it the nest contained two young about two days old. He was unable to see the parent bird in order to identify it.—W. OTTO EMERSON, Haywards, Cal.

Curious Nesting Sites of Western House Wren.—The little brown house wren or Parkman wren (*Troglodytes aedon parkmani*) seems to be showing some preference for steel in this locality. In June, 1904, a pair built their nest in a section of stove pipe eight feet long placed on rafters of a chicken house, the end of which was latticed. The nest was eight feet from the ground. One end of the pipe was filled up with small twigs, and at the other end was the nest proper. It looked as if instinct has taught them to fill up one end of the pipe to keep out weazels and rodents. When examined the nest contained six fully fledged young, as George Luce informed me. Another nest was placed on a foundation of ten-penny nails in a grain sack, which had been hung up on the side of a ranch house within five feet of the ground in plain view of anyone passing. I saw the mite of brown feathers flit out of a wee hole in the sack, and on looking into it found a nest of the usual wren character. A few twigs had been placed on the nails and well lined with birds' feathers, but no snake skin. Another queer situation for a wren's nest was found in a pocket of an old velvet smoking coat hanging over the rafters of a deserted preemptor's cabin. From the appearance of the coat it had been used for several nests.—W. OTTO EMERSON, Haywards, Cal.

THE EDITOR'S BOOK SHELF

MANUALE DI ORNITOLOGIA ITALIANA. Elenco descrittivo degli Uccelli Stazionari o di Passaggio finora osservati in Italia. DEL CONTE DOTT. E. ARRIGONI DEGLI ODDI. Con 36 tavole e 401 incisioni nel testo da disegni originali. Milano, 1904, 16 mo. pp. 163 + VIII + 908.

Students of Italian birds, particularly those who have not access to the more elaborate works,

have long been in need of a concise, yet sufficiently inclusive, and inexpensive manual. The present book, a thick volume of small size (3x6 inches), seems well calculated to meet this want, for while containing the information that is to the point it is yet sufficiently brief to be convenient for ready reference; and its author, well known for his ornithological writings and an authority on the birds of his native land, is guarantee sufficient of requisite accuracy.

The first part, to which 163 pages are devoted, consists of general matter under various headings, as follows, each of which is treated with such fullness as its importance in this connection demands: External Structure; Feathers (structure and color); Molt and Pterylography; Imitative Coloration; Dimorphism; Hybridism; Females in Male Plumage; Teratology; Geographical Distribution; Migration; Song; Nest and Eggs; Classification.

The remainder of the book is taken up by the descriptive part, in which each of the 473 species and trinomial subspecies now accredited to the Italian avifauna is separately treated. The scientific name, and the vernacular,—usually in French, German, and English, as well as Italian—are given; also essential synonymy, chiefly Italian references; a description of male, female, and young; geographical distribution, both general and local; a more or less extended account of habits; and sometimes critical notes, zoological or nomenclatural.

Text illustrations are numerous, chiefly heads or structural details, but they add much to the usefulness of the volume; while the 36 full-page plates, representing nests or other facts connected with the life history of the species portrayed, are of additional interest and value. The type and general make-up are good; but we miss entirely the keys to species and higher groups that are generally so conspicuous and convenient, not to say necessary, a feature of modern bird books such as this. It is likewise to be regretted that a more modern classification could not have been adopted: the list begins with the Vulturidae and ends with the Alcidae. Notwithstanding these defects, the author is to be congratulated on the very satisfactory performance of his task; and it is to be hoped that the book will meet with the cordial reception it deserves.—H. C. OBERHOLSER.

THE AMERICAN NATURAL HISTORY. A Foundation of Useful Knowledge of the Higher Animals of North America. By WILLIAM T. HORNADAY, Director of the New York Zoological Park, author of "Two Years in the Jungle," etc. Illustrated by 227 original drawings by Beard, Rungius, Sawyer and others, 116 photographs, chiefly by Sanborn, Keller and Underwood, and numerous charts and maps. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, M C M IV—8 vo. pp. XV+449. \$3.50, postage extra.

By reason of his wide experience with live animals Mr. Hornaday is especially well fitted to prepare a Natural History that will appeal to American readers. The "volume is intended as builders filling in the chasm that now exists between the technical 'zoology' of the college and the 'nature-study' lessons of the common schools." The author "has striven to accomplish two ends: (1) to make clear each animal's place in the great system of Nature, and (2) to introduce the animal in such a manner as to enable the reader to become personally acquainted with it."

The introduction covers seven pages and contains explanations of classification, nomenclature, rules for measuring mammals, horns, etc., together with a short exposition on "The Intelligence of Animals: A Warning," in which the author scores the modern school of romancers, masquerading as interpreters of so-called animal intelligence and emotions. The book is systematically arranged, and begins with the mammals and ends with the lancelets, being concerned with the animals commonly known as "vertebrates." To the mammals about 170 pages are devoted, to the birds 140, to the reptiles 43, to the amphibians 12, and to the fishes 75. About 300 well chosen and important species are treated, of which a few are exotic, being introduced in order to fill in important gaps in the general system. Among the birds, as elsewhere in the book, the commoner species receive the fuller treatment, those forms of less popular interest having short notes. The author points out the desirability of preserving bird life, and emphasizes the economic status of birds, especially of the hawks and owls. The book is profusely illustrated with drawings and photographs, most of which are exceptionally good. Mr. Hornaday's style is clear, concise, and interesting, and his book is put together in a common-sense, practical manner. The reader may also take comfort in the knowledge that what he is reading is authentic information.

A MONOGRAPH OF MARCUS ISLAND. An Account of its Physical Features and Geology, with Descriptions of the Fauna and Flora. By WM. ALANSON BRYAN, B. Sc. Illustrated by a map, seven half-tone cuts and line drawings by the author. From the Occasional Papers of the Bernice Pauhi Bishop Museum, vol. II, No. 1, 1903 [1904] pp. 77—139.

In this highly interesting monograph Mr. Bryan has presented a valuable account of Marcus Island, a tiny speck of land situated 2400 miles westward from Honolulu and 4500 miles west by south from San Francisco. Until Mr. Bryan's visit this islet was practically unknown to Americans, although Japanese have recently visited it more or less regularly, and as we shall see

have devastated the bird colonies. Owing to the fact that Japan claimed the island, the naturalists were not allowed to use firearms, or rather to land with them, the Japanese officers in charge evidently fearing that the explorers might cherish hostile intentions. The islet is composed of coral, and is triangular in shape, with the sides about one and a half miles long. It is covered with trees and bushes except on the beaches, and harbors a considerable variety of sea birds. But to the disappointment of Mr. Bryan, no land birds were discovered. The special portion of the report includes an account of the birds, of which 18 species are listed, with short notices of the reptiles (2 species), insects, molluscs, crustaceans, botany, and an appendix containing a list of fishes by Bryan and Albert C. Herre. One new bird is described, *Micranous marcus*, which is most nearly related to the noio, *M. hawaiiensis*. The account of the bird life is of great interest and value, and we are tempted to make extensive extracts. Even a casual glance at the paper will show that the author made good use of his week's sojourn on the island, and later has made good use of his pen. Space will permit, however, only a part of the story of the Laysan albatross which used to breed abundantly on the island. Only one bird was seen alive by Mr. Bryan.

"The story of the Marcus Island colony of goonies is one of death and extermination. In the beginning of the operations of the Japanese company on the island goonies were fairly abundant. Not being able to find guano by their crude methods, they developed a scheme whereby they were able to make a marketable commodity by killing the birds and boiling them down in great kettles. The resultant, consisting of flesh, bones and viscera, was barreled and shipped to Japan where it was used as a fertilizer. The long wing feathers of all the birds were pulled out and carefully preserved to be shipped to America and Europe and sold as 'eagle feathers,' which were in great demand for trimming on ladies' hats. The feathers from the breast were plucked off and sold by the pound. A profitable business was then developed, with the deplorable result that within six years the entire colony of these splendid birds has been exterminated." A specimen of *Larus vegae* was secured from one of the residents of the island.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON BIRDS OF THE UPPER PECOS. BY FLORENCE MERRIAM BAILEY. From The Auk, XXI, July, 1904, pp. 348-363.

This paper is in some ways supplementary to Henshaw and Nelson's "List of Birds Observed in Summer and Fall on the Upper Pecos River, New Mexico" (Auk II, 1885, pp. 326-333; III, 1886 pp. 73-80) and consists of observations made on the Pecos Forest Reserve, and carried to an altitude of 13,300 feet on Pecos Baldy and Truchas Peaks. The list comprises 94 species, with annotations, some of which are quite extended, and written in Mrs. Bailey's usual clear style.

THE ORIGIN AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEE. BY JOSEPH GRINNELL. From The Auk, XXI, July, 1904, pp. 364-382.

In this paper Mr. Grinnell points out the probable origin of the chestnut-backed and Hudsonian chickadee from a common ancestor, "*Parus pre-hudsonicus*," the chestnut backed having differentiated first as a race of this hypothetical form. Finally through isolation it became a full species, restricted to the humid coast belt, while *hudsonicus*, another subspecies of "*pre-hudsonicus*," became confined to the boreal arid interior. Each species then differentiated races of its own as its range extended into new faunal conditions. The paper is illustrated by two maps and a chart.

A PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF THE BIRDS OF NEBRASKA, WITH SYNOPSES. BY LAWRENCE BRUNER, ROBERT H. WALCOTT, MYRON H. SWENK, (no date; received Oct. 8, 1904.) 8 vo. 125 pages. Klopp & Bartlett Co., Omaha, Neb.

The synopses and careful annotations make this book really a manual of the birds of Nebraska, a manual at least that a student with some knowledge of birds will be able to handle. The paper is prefaced by an essay on "Birds in Relation to Agriculture and Horticulture" by Prof. Bruner. The annotations are short but definite, and are concerned entirely with the status of the species. We note that the authors have joined the ranks of the "non-possessive ornithologists," all of which indicates how the wind is blowing. This paper is decidedly a credit to its authors and to Nebraskan ornithologists. The reviewer hopes that the Cooper Ornithological Club will sometime be able to bring out a book on California birds modeled something after this brochure.

ADDITIONS TO MITCHELL'S LIST OF THE SUMMER BIRDS OF SAN MIGUEL COUNTY, NEW MEXICO. BY FLORENCE MERRIAM BAILEY. From The Auk, XXI, Oct. 1904, pp. 443-449.

This paper lists 56 species, being additions to Dr. Walton I. Mitchell's list of 85 species. The notes were taken during about two months of Biological Survey work spread over the three summer months. The paper opens with a description of the country and its faunal characteristics. No work was done in the northern part of the county east of the line between Las Vegas and Mora, which would probably have brought in a number of additional mountain species.

DESCRIPTION OF FOUR NEW BIRDS FROM MEXICO. BY E. W. NELSON. From Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. XVII, Oct. 6, 1904, pp. 151-152.

In this paper are described the following new forms: *Porzana goldmani*, from the valley of

Toluca, Mexico; *Empidonax fulvifrons fusciceps*, Highlands of Chiapas; *Arremonops superciliosus chiopensis*, valley of the Chiapas River; *Telmatodytes palustris tolucensis*, Toluca Valley.

ON A COLLECTION OF BIRDS AND MAMMALS FROM MOUNT SANHEDRIN, CALIFORNIA. BY WITMER STONE. (With Field Notes by A. S. Bunnell.) From Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad. Oct. 17, 1904, pp. 576-585.

This paper is based on a collection of birds and mammals from Mount Sanhedrin, Mendocino County, taken by Mr. A. S. Bunnell. A short account is given of the physiographical and faunal features of the peak, which attains an elevation of 5000 feet. The mountain is drained by one of the tributaries of Eel River and is covered with Douglas spruce and 'ponderosa' pines. Mr. Bunnell is in error, however, in supposing that the mountain reaches the Hudsonian zone. It is even extremely doubtful if there is any undiluted Canadian, even on the north side. The list of birds includes 88 species, all the land birds being representative Upper Sonoran and Transition forms, but some of them also occurring in Canadian. The list is of especial interest on account of the paucity of records from this general region. We note that Mr. Stone accepts *Cyanocitta stelleri carbonacea*, and we hope that he will persuade the Committee on Nomenclature to coincide with his views.

LIST OF BIRDS COLLECTED IN ALASKA BY THE ANDREW J. STONE EXPEDITION OF 1903. BY FRANK M. CHAPMAN. From Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. XX, Nov. 4, 1904, pp. 399-406.

Mr. Chapman has given an account of 62 species of birds collected at several localities on the Alaska Peninsula and Kenai Peninsula, from May 19 to October 8, by Mr. M. P. Anderson, a member of the expedition. Twenty water birds are listed and forty-two land birds. *Cyanocitta stelleri borealis* is maintained as a valid race and *Dendroica coronata hooveri* is regarded as untenable.

A BIOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE OF THE BASE OF THE ALASKA PENINSULA. BY WILFRED H. OSGOOD. North American Fauna No. 24. Nov. 23, 1904, 86 pp. VII plates.

This report "contains an account of a hasty trip made during the latter part of the summer and fall of 1902 to the base of the Alaska Peninsula. Work was done on both coasts and in part of the interior." The preliminary portion of the paper contains the following subheads: Introduction; General Account (Outline of Route, Iliamna Bay to Lake Clark, Lake Clark to Nushagak, Nushagak to Cold Bay); Life Zones; Previous Work. Then follows a List of Mammals and a List of Birds, the latter comprising pages 51 to 81. Mr. Osgood considers the greater part of the Alaskan Peninsula to belong to the Arctic zone, which is especially characterized by the absence of timber. The Hudsonian zone sends a tongue of timber south of Lake Iliamna. The characteristic animals were found to conform very satisfactorily to this division of the area. A map graphically illustrates the areas occupied by the two zones. One hundred thirty birds are listed, of which seventy are water birds. The notes, in several cases extended, include information on the status of the species in the region under discussion, distribution, critical matter, and observations on the habits. Numerous half-tone illustrations from photographs admirably illustrate the character of the region visited.

THE BIRDS OF NORTH AND MIDDLE AMERICA, ETC. PART III. BY ROBERT RIDGWAY. 8 vo. pp. 1-XX+1-801, pl. 1-XIX (= Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 50, Pt. III.)

Volume three of Mr. Ridgway's well-known work appeared during the last days of 1904, and contains accounts of the following families: Motacillidae, Hirundinidae, Ampelidae, Ptilonotidae, Dulidae, Vireonidae, Laniidae, Corvidae, Paridae, Sittidae, Certhiidae, Troglodytidae, Cinclidae, Chamæidae, Sylviidae. It is thus full of interest to the student of western birds. Among the few changes in nomenclature may be noted the following: *Vireosylva*, and *Lanius* are accorded generic rank; *Crates* replaces *Perisoreus* (p. 750); and *Penthestes* becomes the generic name of our common chickadees, *Parus* being restricted to the old world, with *Parus major* as type.

Among the Paridae a number of additions and changes are to be noted. Our plain titmouse of the San Francisco Bay region is described as *Bupalophus inornatus restrictus* and that of the San Diegoan district as *B. i. murinus*. *Bupalophus wollweberi* is restricted to the highlands of Mexico, and the form from the United States is called *B. w. annexus* (Cassin). *Psaltriparus minimus saturatus* is described as new (Puget Sound).

Troglodytes aedon aztecus is made a synonym of *T. a. parkmani* and consequently drops out of nomenclature. *Salpinctes obsoletus pulverius* is recognized, as are also *Telmatodytes p. thryophilus*, *Thryomanes b. eremophilus*, *T. b. cerroensis*, *T. b. neophilus*, *T. b. drymucus*, and *Catherpes mexicanus polioptilus*, *Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis* and *Cyanocitta s. carbonacea*. *Corvus caurinus* is reduced to a subspecies of *brachyrhynchos*. Our water ouzel becomes *Cinclus mexicanus unicolor* the typical form being found in Mexico and Central America. The California check-list receives an addition by the recording of *Corvus corax clarksonensis* from the Santa Barbara Islands.

In the preface we are told that "Part IV, which is about half completed, includes the Turdidae (Thrushes), Mimidae (Mockingbirds), Alaudidae (Larks), Sturnidae (Starlings), Ploceidae (Weaver Birds), Oxyruncidae (Sharp-bills), Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers), Pipridae (Manakins), and Cotingidae (Chatterers). In the three volumes which have been published there have been described about 1250 species and subspecies, or about two-fifths of the total number of North and Middle American birds."—WALTER K. FISHER.

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NOTES AND NEWS

An expedition of more than ordinary interest was sent by the California Academy of Sciences, during the summer, to the Galapagos Islands, to be gone nineteen months. The expedition was organized through the indefatigable efforts of the Director of the Museum, Mr. Leverett Mills Loomis, who spared neither time nor pains to bring the undertaking to a successful start. The personnel includes R. H. Beck, Chief, E. W. Gifford and J. S. Hunter, birds and mammals, A. W. Stewart, plants, J. R. Slevin and Ernest King, reptiles, F. X. Williams, beetles and other insects, and W. H. Ochsner, living and fossil shells. The Academy purchased a two-masted schooner-yacht from the Navy Department. This vessel is 85 feet long, 23.5 feet broad and has a gross tonnage of 114. The equipment includes practically everything that such an expedition can possibly need. The itinerary of the trip is as follows: left San Francisco, June 28, via Ensenada (2 days); San Benitos (2 days), Natividad (one half day), Cerros (1 day), San Benedicte (2 days), Socorro (1 day), Cocos (1 week) or Clipperton (2 days); arrive at Galapagos about August 15; thirteen months, August 15, 1905 to September 15, 1906 to be spent at Galapagos, with a trip to Cocos if it has not been previously visited; leave Galapagos September 15, 1906, via Clarion, and arrive at San Francisco, December 1, 1906. The members will make especial efforts to secure a very complete collection of reptiles and birds, while their long stay in the islands will enable them to gather much biological data of importance, as well as data concerning temperature and rainfall, and the effects of these on distribution. This expedition will undoubtedly prove the most important which has yet visited this, one might say, classic region.

The editor had the pleasure of being a member of Camp Agassiz during the past summer. This camp, now well known to all lovers of the

mountains, is perhaps unique among the host of camps which are springing up in response to a popular need. It is without doubt situated in the most attractive portion of the Sierra Nevada, and in a region where more interesting peaks and lakes are easily accessible than elsewhere throughout the whole length of this remarkable chain. The single view from Mt. Tallac easily bears favorable comparison with the best that the Alps can offer. And all this is right at our door, as it were, but eighteen hours from San Francisco. We are glad to state that the camp enjoyed the most prosperous summer since its foundation, and will now be open for guests *the entire year*. During midwinter the camp is reached by travelling over the snow on skis from Tallac where the adventurous are landed by boat three times a week. This will afford an unexcelled opportunity to view the wildest portion of the Sierra during the great silence of winter—an opportunity which has heretofore been denied all but the most venturesome, for the simple reason that resorts are closed during the winter months. The editor hopes to make the acquaintance of the winter birds during the Christmas holidays.

We take pleasure in acknowledging the courtesy of The Pacific Monthly of Portland, Oregon, for the loan of three cuts, used in Mr. Finley's article on "Among the Sea Birds off the Oregon Coast." The Pacific Monthly is rapidly forging to the front of all western magazines, and is coming to be the acknowledged exponent of western literature, as well as a magazine of unusual mechanical excellence. We congratulate the publishers on the success attending their vigorous efforts to produce a magazine of merit.

RESOLUTIONS

Whereas, it has pleased an All-Wise Providence to take from us, to a higher life, an Honorary Member of the Cooper Ornithological Club, Mr. Walter E. Bryant of Santa Rosa, thereby closing the earthly career of one who was ever close and dear to us in a fraternal sense, while commanding our admiration and respect for his scholarly and scientific attainments, therefore, be it

Resolved, That in the death of Walter E. Bryant this Club has sustained a loss which years only can fully measure, and one that is personal and sincere to all who knew him; and be it further

Resolved, That in the passing of Mr. Bryant we deplore the loss to Pacific Coast Ornithology of one of its most ardent students, a thorough Ornithologist, whose work and papers are a monument to his memory; one who was ever helpful to a friend or beginner; an enthusiastic collector, a loyal friend, and one of whom it might be said that he was in every sense a man, and it is finally

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions, a feeble though heart-felt tribute to his memory, be sent to his bereaved family, and a copy spread upon the minutes and published in the official organ of the Cooper Ornithological Club.



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Review of American Birds (new) Pt. 1, 1864-72

The English Sparrow in America. Walter B. Barrows.

Birds of Southwestern Mexico. Francis E. Sumichrast. U. S. Nat. Mus. 2876.

Pub. Writings of Geo. N. Lawrence. L. S. Foster. Bull 40. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1892.

Birds of the San Francisco Mt. Region and Desert of the Little Colorado, Arizona. Dr. C. Hart Merriam.

The Hummingbirds. Robert Ridgway (illustrated).

Canadian Birds, Pt. I., 1900.

Study of Genus *Sturnella*. Frank M. Chapman, 1900

Contributions to Philippine Ornithology. Dean C. Worcester, 1898.

Calif. Water Birds No. 3, South Farallon Is. Leverett M. Loomis.

Birds of the Kotzebue Sound Region, Alaska. Joseph Grinnell.

Oregon Naturalist, Vol. 3.

Zoology, Birds by H. W. Henshaw. Vol. 5. 1875. (Without plates).

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